



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: July 24, 2006
Week Ending: July 23, 2006
CWP WA-CW3006

Summer Heat Stressed Crops but Overall Conditions Remain Good

Field Crops

The temperatures were 100 degrees plus across the state setting records in some counties. Crops saw some stress but overall conditions were good. Sweet corn is behind schedule and harvesting of winter wheat continued.

Livestock

Due to the high temperatures, range and pasture conditions decreased to 1% very poor, 3% poor, 31% fair and 65% good. Pastures dried out rapidly due to the heat and fire danger has increased as a result.

Fruit and Vegetables

The raspberry, blueberry and blackberries were yielding bumper crops in Mason County. Cherry growers were busy trying to cool down orchards to reduce fruit damage from the excessive heat. Crop damage was reported for cranberries due to a hail storm in 2005 that hurt the fruit buds.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.9
Last Week	6.6

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	16	36	48	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	15	40	45	0
Subsoil	2	29	69	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	11	37	51	0
Irrigation Water	0	0	100	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	2	10	88	0
Hay & Roughage	0	19	80	1

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2005	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Headed	100	97	100	100
Winter Wheat Harvested	19	3	15	12
Barley Headed	100	96	99	100
Potatoes Harvested	14	5	15	14
Corn Silked	55	30	59	52
Corn Doughed	10	9	0	2
Proc. Green Peas Harvested	97	85	96	97
Dry Peas Harvested	35	30	44	16
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	79	57	84	84

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	0	5	23	65	7
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	9	78	13
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	16	39	43	2
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	15	80	5
Barley Dryland	0	16	39	43	2
Barley Irrigated	0	0	12	78	10
Potatoes	0	1	21	71	7
Corn	0	0	17	83	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	1	24	62	13

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

*Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clark: Extreme high temperatures over the last week have stressed all local fruit crops, hay and pasture.

Clallam/Jefferson: Crops were pretty much on target with the weather in this area. Temperatures have warmed up for this area.

Grays/Lewis/Pacific: Sweet corn growth was behind schedule due to a combination of late planting due to rain, heat stress from short heat waves, and colder than normal nights. Field corn planted prior to late May rains were looking good, but the late planted corn was comparable to the late planted sweet corn which is two weeks or more behind schedule. It appeared that cranberry fruit buds (2006 crop) were hurt by last fall's hail storm that hurt the 2005 crop in the Grayland area. Grain crops generally looked good.

Mason: Hot, hot, hot!!! Irrigation was a high priority activity this past week. Pastured poultry producers were looking for ways to keep birds cooler, and shade was at a premium for all livestock producers. Berry producers were harvesting bumper crops of blueberries, blackberries and raspberries.

Mason (2nd Report): The summer slump was officially here with 90 degree to 100 degree high temperatures and virtually no grass regrowth except in heavily irrigated areas. The corn loved it though, it looked great. Farms were suffering in this weather, the pastures were dry and dormant and hopefully this next week is the end of it. No precipitation recorded all week.

Pierce/King: Growers need to be irrigating crops that require it. Berry and fruit growers should avoid overhead irrigation to avoid fruit splitting.

Pierce/S. King: I'm sure the hot weather has taken its toll on crops in the South Puget Sound area. We will

just have to wait and see how much if any damage was done due to the hot weather. No other unusual situations to report.

Skagit: Pea harvest was well underway with good yields. One farmer thought he had a field that went over four tons to the acre. This hasn't happened in the Skagit Valley for quite sometime. Grass seed harvest was also underway. Hopefully there will be yield data available next week. Potato farmers were mowing fields down which was good timing because many farm hands were beginning to tire of supplying supplemental irrigation. The corn really loved the hot dry weather. The raspberry harvest was starting to wind down and blueberry harvest was in full swing. The latest streak of hot weather really made for some good tasting berries.

Skagit/Island/San Juan: Weather has been hot and dry. Crops appeared to be fairing well at this point due to some irrigation.

Snohomish/King: Sunny week with very warm temperatures over the weekend, reaching 100 degrees in some areas. Crops were showing signs of heat stress. Farmers with irrigation were using it. Raspberry harvest was winding down and blueberry harvest continued. Pastures were showing drought stress. Crops were doing well but could use some rain.

Snohomish/N. King (2nd Report): Crops were still on target with the weather although the nights were a little cool.

Whatcom: Raspberry growers reported yield loss due to hot temperatures. All crops needed irrigation to sustain normal growth. Producers reported not being able to keep up with irrigation on grass and corn fields.

Central

Benton: Harvest continued in the county, with yields ranging from 25 to 40 bushels in some parts for winter wheat, and 20 to 32 bushels in spring wheat. Temperatures continued to be hot.

Chelan: Cherry harvest continued at a high rate, complicated by extreme temperatures. Hot weather was advancing the maturity of the cherries, while limiting the hours that fruit may be harvested. Growers were cooling cherry and apple orchards as much as possible to reduce the fruit damage brought on by excessive heat. Hand thinning of apples, normally done in the afternoons after cherry harvest, was going slowly due to the heat.

Franklin: Very hot conditions. Temperatures reached from 105 degrees to 110 degrees for the last three days of the week. Wheat harvest has begun.

Franklin (2nd Report): Temperatures were quite hot and a bit above normal. Plant growth has slowed during the triple digit days we've experienced. Winter wheat harvest was in full swing and has been for a couple of weeks now. Spring wheat harvest has begun as well. Second cutting hay was nearly complete. The rains of June set back some second cutting of hay. Timothy was also being cut and has been for several weeks. There was some concern among the lesser heat tolerant crops for plant stress and yield reduction.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from three degrees below normal to sixteen degrees above normal, with no precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Asotin/Garfield: Temperatures have been well above normal, setting record highs on some days. Harvest was progressing in the lower half of both Garfield & Asotin Counties. Yield reports indicated an average crop. Low test weights and small kernel size in some areas have been reported. Later seeded spring crops in the higher elevations were suffering from the excessive heat.

Ferry: Producers were putting final hay away from their first cutting on higher elevation fields in the county. Lower elevations were into their second cutting. Republic had an all time heat record of 103 degrees. The ground was drying out fast from the heat. Some lightning came through Saturday and Sunday. It could be a bad fire season with heavy vegetation from spring rains.

Garfield: Farmers were well on their way to harvest through the extreme heat. Yields were a little below average for soft white winter wheat and hard red winter wheat. Spring wheat (DNS) looked good with a \$1.98 premium this week. Calving has begun early for fall calvers.

Lincoln: Hot weather continued to dry and pinch up the wheat crops.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Hot temperatures last week continued to ripen grain. Harvest began in the drier southwest part of the county.

Pend Orielle: The temperatures were 101 degrees for the highs and 38 degrees for the lows with no precipitation. The last five days of the week have brought high temperatures that have dried hay crops and pastures. Livestock were off eating except in the mornings and late evenings seeking shade mid-day. Most activity for both man and animal slowed at mid-day due to the heat. Pastures were drying fast and

several heat related fires have been reported. Hogs were being cooled down during the heat of the day with feed off normal.

Pend Orielle/Spokane: Another week of really hot weather was taking its toll on spring crops. The end of the week temperatures were 100 plus degrees in Spokane. This was having an effect on the spring wheat, barley, lentils and peas. Winter wheat was moving closer to harvest and the weather was really pushing it along, good or bad. Fire danger has increased significantly due to the amount of fuel and the temperatures. Some second cutting hay was being cut. Bluegrass seed harvest was moving along very well.

Stevens: Grain hay producers began cutting and baling oats and barley. A few producers worked on the second cutting of alfalfa hay. High temperatures were around 100 degrees which caused grain crops to turn rapidly. Grain harvest was still at least two weeks away.

Walla Walla: The weather was extremely hot. It is good for grain harvesting which was in full swing. Good for hay curing, but hard to get baling done. Livestock water seemed to be good, but this hot weather could cause problems.

Whitman: Extreme heat had developed over the region. Temperatures soared above 100 degrees over the past week. Grains and pulses were ripening rapidly in the heat. Harvest has begun in the western end of the county as well as out on the breaks of the Snake River. Harvest will begin to head eastward this week with many operations planning on starting.

Weekly Weather Statistics

July 24, 2006

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	48	88	66	4	116	28	47	26	0.00	-0.28	0	31.97	-2.48	93	160
Everett	52	90	69	6	133	42	64	41	0.00	-0.26	0	30.56	-4.23	88	166
Hoquiam	49	91	67	6	118	41	49	35	0.00	-0.28	0	69.94	3.81	106	187
Kelso	46	102	71	8	152	54	82	53	0.00	-0.20	0	42.40	-2.43	95	154
Olympia	45	100	71	8	146	54	76	50	0.00	-0.14	0	52.11	3.01	106	152
Sea-Tac	53	97	73	7	160	50	90	48	0.00	-0.14	0	36.41	0.53	101	154
Shelton	48	102	71	7	150	44	80	43	0.00	-0.21	0	68.11	4.66	107	159
Tacoma	48	97	71	6	145	40	75	40	0.00	-0.14	0	38.55	-0.20	99	142
Vancouver	50	104	74	10	170	65	100	65	0.00	-0.14	0	41.93	2.05	105	149
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	52	106	77	8	187	55	117	55	0.00	-0.01	0	12.04	3.58	142	90
Stampede Pass	46	97	71	16	150	108	85	78	0.00	-0.28	0	68.70	-9.81	88	174
Wenatchee	56	107	80	6	209	41	139	41	0.00	-0.01	0	7.21	-0.59	92	67
Yakima AP	47	109	76	7	186	44	116	45	0.00	0.00	0	9.70	2.18	129	77
NORTHEAST															
Colville	52	102	76	10	181	62	111	62	0.00	-0.14	0	20.10	0.57	103	112
Deer Park	46	102	73	4	162	22	92	22	0.00	-0.18	0	28.06	10.48	160	127
Spokane AP	53	102	76	8	184	47	114	47	0.00	-0.14	0	19.66	4.05	126	117
EAST															
CENTRAL															
Ephrata	55	107	81	6	215	35	145	36	0.00	-0.07	0	9.72	2.84	141	75
Moses Lake	51	106	78	3	198	18	128	19	0.00	-0.07	0	12.04	5.16	175	91
Quincy	57	105	80	9	211	61	141	62	0.00	-0.01	0	11.71	4.34	159	89
Ritzville	48	104	74	5	172	32	102	32	0.00	-0.07	0	15.24	4.44	141	97
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	54	106	81	3	216	18	146	18	0.00	0.00	0	6.12	0.06	101	49
Pasco	50	112	78	4	199	24	129	24	0.00	-0.01	0	9.64	2.61	137	77
Pullman	41	101	72	6	154	42	84	42	0.00	-0.14	0	13.49	-6.53	67	109
Whitman Miss.	48	106	76	5	183	32	113	33	0.00	-0.07	0	17.14	4.16	132	119
ID															
PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	48	100	73	4	164	24	94	24	0.00	-0.14	0	10.86	-13.54	45	88
Lewiston ID	55	107	81	7	220	45	150	45	0.00	-0.14	0	11.72	0.23	102	94

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2005

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches. Precipitation

Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2006/summary/weth1606.pdf>

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